

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a localized portion of body tissue
2 comprising:

- 3 a) inserting a needle apparatus in a body, said apparatus including at least
4 one hollow core needle for delivering an electrically conductive ~~a viscous~~
5 ~~treatment~~ substance into said body in the form of a gel or of microspheres,
6 whereby the substance is limited to a localized portion of body tissue;
- 7 b) guiding said needle apparatus to a desired target volume of tissue in need
8 of treatment, and said guiding including use of a non-invasive imaging
9 technique for viewing inside an area of tissue; ~~and~~
- 10 c) applying said ~~treatment~~ substance to said volume of target tissue through
11 said needle apparatus;
- 12 d) determining that said volume of said tissue is penetrated by said
13 substance; and
- 14 e) applying RF energy to said substance through an RF electrode to ablate
15 the volume of tissue, wherein said substance serves as an electrode
16 extension conducting said RF energy throughout said volume.
- 17 ~~wherein said treatment substance includes a component selected from the~~
18 ~~group consisting of tissue necrosis agents, thereby causing selective tissue~~
19 ~~necrosis in said target tissue.~~

2-9. (Cancelled).

1 10. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 [9] wherein said substance
2 ~~includes an electrically conductive component~~ needle apparatus further includes a biopsy needle
3 guide through which said hollow core needle is inserted, and said hollow core needle functions
4 as said RF electrode.

1 11-14 (Cancelled)

1 15. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said substance
2 includes an image contrasting agent for use in said determining of the volume of tissue
3 penetrated, and said microspheres are non-metallic.

1 16. (Cancelled)

1 17. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 ~~using microspheres, wherein~~
2 ~~said microspheres include an image contrasting agent~~ wherein said substance includes a
3 component selected from the group consisting of tissue necrosis agents, thereby causing selective
4 tissue necrosis in said target tissue.

18-19. (Cancelled)

1 20. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 ~~using microspheres, wherein~~
2 each microsphere includes a container holding therein ~~a gas and~~ a substance ~~selected from the~~
3 ~~group consisting of a gel and a liquid~~ for providing image enhancement for use in determining
4 said volume when said imaging technique is ultrasound.

1 21. (Previously amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said volume is in a
2 prostate, and wherein said method is for treating a condition selected from the group consisting

3 of BPH and prostate cancer, and wherein said inserting is accomplished by a method selected
4 from the group consisting of Transrectal, Transurethral and Transperineal approach.

22-23. (Cancelled)

1 24. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said method is applied for the
2 treatment of a body part selected from group consisting of prostate, liver, uterus, bladder, kidney,
3 lung, and breast.

1 25. (Original) A method as recited in claim 24 wherein said inserting is accomplished
2 using an approach selected from the group consisting of percutaneous, laparoscopic, and
3 endoscopic.

26-29. (Cancelled)

1 30. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said guiding is further
2 performed using a device selected from the group consisting of biopsy apparatus, laparoscope,
3 endoscope, hysteroscope, MRI, CT scan, and ultrasound imaging apparatus.

31-32. (Cancelled)

1 33. (Previously amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said inserting is
2 performed by at least one method selected from the group consisting of percutaneous, through an
3 incision, through a natural body opening, and a laparoscopic approach.

34-36. (Cancelled)

1 37. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 ~~using a gel~~, wherein said
2 substance ~~gel~~ further includes a chemo agent selected from the group consisting of hypertonic
3 saline solution, acetic acid, ethanol and other tissue necrosing agents, and wherein said ~~gel~~
4 substance further includes a binding agent.

1 38. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said substance
2 includes said using microspheres, wherein each said microsphere further includes a gas.

1 39. (Original) A method as recited in claim 38 wherein said gas is selected from the
2 group consisting of air, helium, fluorocarbon, and carbon dioxide.

1 40. (Original) A method as recited in claim 37 wherein said binding agent is selected
2 from the group consisting of biomaterial, polymer, biodegradable polymer, a suspension agent, a
3 derivative of a protein, fat, collagen, and oil.

1 41. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim ~~40~~ 1 wherein said substance
2 includes a conductive component ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of conductive polymers,
3 conductive agents, conductive elements, carbon particles, and metallic suspensions.

1 42. (New) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said microspheres include
2 a) biodegradable sealed containers; and
3 b) a conductive gel within said container.